

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JOHN CHRISTMAN

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of attending a ceremony where World War II veteran John Christman was presented a Congressional Gold Medal. John is one of the nine surviving veterans who served as a soldier in the U.S. Army's 23rd Headquarters Special Troops tactical deception unit, more popularly known as the "Ghost Army." This 1,100-man unit has a very unique mission. The Ghost Army's mission is to impersonate other Allied Army units in order to deceive our enemy. The Ghost Army has staged more than 20 battlefield deceptions, often operating very close to the front lines. I would like to thank John for the bravery and selflessness that he displayed while serving our country in the Ghost Army. God Bless John, and I thank him for his exemplary service, and God Bless our America.

HONORING THE OPENING OF THE
OCALA, FLORIDA VA CLINIC

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, we are proud to recognize the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Ocala VA Clinic on June 22, 2022. This clinic is a tremendous triumph for our veteran community in North Central Florida and will serve thousands of veterans with excellent care. This project has been a long-time coming and I am pleased to see its completion. Congratulations to the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System on another job well done on behalf of our Nation's heroes.

HONORING GREG JASEK AND THE
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY BAND'S
30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Highland Community Band and to honor Greg Jasek, principal conductor. Due to the global pandemic, the anniversary celebration was cancelled in 2020, but a concert and presentation will take place this year on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at Main Square Park in Highland, Indiana.

Born and raised in the Hegewisch neighborhood of Chicago, Greg Jasek first heard the

siren's call of music in third grade when he began taking trumpet lessons. Those lessons were supplemented with visits to Chicago Symphony Orchestra performances, as well as watching Leonard Bernstein on television. He continued his studies in conducting with Michael Morgan, then-assistant conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Later, he was accepted to Tanglewood, which is the summer home of the Boston Symphony. While at Tanglewood, Greg studied with noted conductors such as Andre Previn, Leonard Slatkin, Maurice Abravanel, John Williams, and Leonard Bernstein.

In 1991, Greg became assistant conductor for the Northwest Indiana Youth Symphony Orchestra, and in 1992, he was named cover conductor for the International Arts Chamber Orchestra. By 1994, Greg arrived at Carnegie Hall to attend the Solti Orchestra Project; however, Maestro Georg Solti had a different plan in mind and asked Greg to assist with the Bartok Concerto for Orchestra during recording sessions for London-Decca. Subsequently, Maestro Solti and Greg collaborated in the orchestration of Bartok's Romanian Christmas Carols.

Prior to these outstanding achievements, Greg had already begun to make what would prove to be an indelible mark on the Highland community. It was in 1989 that a young baritone player named Michael Griffin approached Greg Jasek with an idea to begin a community band in Highland, Indiana. Musicians from Northwest Indiana and Northeastern Illinois gathered together, and the Highland Community Band gave its first concert in July 1990. As fate would have it, Greg met his wife, Kerry, a flute player in the band, during this time. The couple would later add two wonderful children, Benjamin and Samuel, to their family.

In 2011, Greg was initiated into the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity as a National Arts Associate, which is a national recognition for distinguished contribution to the arts. Later, in 2021, in recognition of his 30 years as principal conductor of the Highland Community Band, Greg was honored with the Distinguished Hoosier Award by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Greg Jasek and in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Highland Community Band. For his musical influence and innovation and his dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, Greg Jasek is one man who most truly can be called maestro, and he is worthy of our admiration and the highest commendation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons I was unable to make votes this week.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 188; NAY on Roll Call No. 189; YEA on Roll Call No. 190; YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; NAY on Roll Call No. 193; YEA on Roll Call No. 194; YEA on Roll Call No. 195; YEA on Roll Call No. 196; YEA on Roll Call No. 197; YEA on Roll Call No. 198; YEA on Roll Call No. 199; YEA on Roll Call No. 200; YEA on Roll Call No. 201; YEA on Roll Call No. 202; YEA on Roll Call No. 203; YEA on Roll Call No. 204; YEA on Roll Call No. 205; YEA on Roll Call No. 206; YEA on Roll Call No. 207; NAY on Roll Call No. 208; NAY on Roll Call No. 209; YEA on Roll Call No. 210; NAY on Roll Call No. 211; NAY on Roll Call No. 212; YEA on Roll Call No. 213; YEA on Roll Call No. 214; YEA on Roll Call No. 215; YEA on Roll Call No. 216; YEA on Roll Call No. 217; YEA on Roll Call No. 218; YEA on Roll Call No. 219; NAY on Roll Call No. 220; NAY on Roll Call No. 221; NAY on Roll Call No. 222; YEA on Roll Call No. 223; YEA on Roll Call No. 224; YEA on Roll Call No. 225; YEA on Roll Call No. 226; YEA on Roll Call No. 227; YEA on Roll Call No. 228; NAY on Roll Call No. 229; NAY on Roll Call No. 230; YEA on Roll Call No. 231; and NAY on Roll Call No. 232.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL
JOSEPH IANNI

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, in honor of the life of Paul Joseph Ianni, I include in the RECORD the following letter written by his former platoon leader during the Vietnam war, Brice H. Barnes.

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF SGT PAUL IANNI: It has been brought to my attention by a fellow Veteran, Mr. Russ Vibberts, that our mutual friend, Mr. Paul Ianni, has transitioned from this world and now rests in the Mighty Arms of our Savior. In 1967, I had the distinct honor of being Paul's Platoon Leader in Vietnam, and knew him as a gentleman and professional soldier. Paul was highly instrumental in our successful exploitation of the largest ammunition and weapons cache ever discovered in the entire Vietnam War, as a volunteer that explored the vast underground tunnel and storage complex. His reports to me were accurate and thorough, enabling us to successfully complete the mission as assigned. For his actions, I nominated Paul for the Bronze Star

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.